

MINUTES OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Tuesday, March 21, 2006 3:50 p.m. Room 307 House Office Building, Lansing

Representative Nitz, Chair, called the meeting to order.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Representatives Nitz, Ball, Newell, Casperson, Stahl, Proos, Hune, Mayes, Spade, Kathleen Law, Sheltroun. (11/11)

Representative Casperson made a motion to adopt the minutes of the meeting of March 14, 2006, supported by Representative Mayes. No objections being offered, a unanimous ballot was cast to accept the minutes as presented.

The Chair laid HR 181 before the Committee.

HR 181 Hansen A resolution to memorialize the Congress of the United States to fund fully the Select Michigan agricultural program through the United States Department of Agriculture.

Representative Hansen spoke to the Committee regarding the provisions of HR 181.

Liesl Clark and Bob Craig, representing the Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA), also spoke briefly to the Committee regarding HR 181 and indicated support.

Tonia Ritter, representing the Michigan Farm Bureau, submitted a card indicating support for HR 181.

Representative Mayes made a motion to report HR 181 with recommendation, supported by Representative Ball.

FAVORABLE ROLL CALL:

Yeas: Representatives Nitz, Ball, Newell, Casperson, Stahl, Proos, Hune, Mayes, Spade, Kathleen Law, Sheltroun. (11/11)

Nays: None. (0/11)

Pass: None. (0/11)

A sufficient number of members voting in the affirmative, the motion prevailed.

The Chair laid HB 5859 before the Committee.

Standing Committee on Agriculture
Minutes of Meeting of March 21, 2006
Page 2

HB 5859 Nitz Agriculture; animals; reimbursement for indemnification payments of certain livestock losses from cougars; provide for.

Representative Nitz reviewed the contents of the bill with Committee members and indicated that no vote would take place on HB 5859 at this meeting.

Dennis Fijalkowski, representing the Michigan Wildlife Conservancy, spoke in support of HB 5859.

Dr. Patrick Rusz, Director of Wildlife Programs for the Michigan Wildlife Conservancy, also spoke to the Committee in support of HB 5859.

Liesl Clark, representing the Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) and Ray Rustem, representing the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), spoke to the Committee regarding HB 5859.

Wendy Chamberlain, representing Parma Township of Jackson County, spoke to the Committee in support of HB 5859.

Tonia Ritter, representing the Michigan Farm Bureau, submitted a card supporting the concept of HB 5859.

The Chair announced that the Committee would continue to work on HB 5859.

There being no additional business before the Committee, Chair Nitz declared the meeting adjourned, the time being 4:35 p.m.

Representative Neal Nitz, Chair

Catherine Petroskey, Committee Clerk
(517) 373-8538